



CITY OF
ST. CHARLES

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THE DEN

JANUARY 2012

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

#1 CITY FOR FAMILIES

- FamilyCircle
2011

2011: The Year in Review

A Letter from the Mayor of St. Charles

Meetings

January

City Council 7 p.m.	3
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	3
Planning & Development 7:05 p.m.	9
City Council 7 p.m.	17
Plan Commission 7:00 p.m.	17
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	17
Government Services 7:00 p.m.	23

With the new year upon us, I have found myself thinking about all we accomplished in 2011. I am proud to say that the St. Charles community has continued to move forward. The economy, undoubtedly, has been tough. And, we have faced unexpected challenges, such as Springfield's latest vote to fund regional school superintendent offices with diverted personal property replacement tax revenues from local governments. But through it all, our city's finances remain stable; our budget is balanced; and our reserves are strong. With aggressive development philosophies, sound business principles, and responsible decision-making, we maintain a solid, diverse tax base and are focused on a dynamic vision for the future.

Economic development recently has shown some life as several residential proposals have been introduced to the community. Lexington former Applied Composites Street, was reviewed in decision expected in the Corporate Reserves, on the property on West Main zoning for a multi-family most notably, proposed modifications to Phase III on First Street (the riverfront land) were reviewed as well. These are particularly noteworthy, as financial markets appear to be relaxing their grip on the real estate development purse strings.

*"we are doing
the right
things in our
community"*

Also of interest has been the opening of Mercedes Benz on Randall Road, the re-opening of Fox Valley Buick GMC on East Main Street, and the reported sales figures coming from other auto dealers in St. Charles. These are significant tax generators for our community, and it is good to see them all coming back to life.

2011 also saw the commencement of construction on the decades-anticipated Red Gate Bridge project. The land preparation and site work is complete, and we now await the bidding and award process for construction of the bridge and roadway, scheduled for January 2012. In the meantime, we are moving ahead with work to access the river and continue to seek additional external funding opportunities to add to the \$14 million already secured.

The city also completed the construction of a Radium Removal facility located on Riverside Avenue, north of Fire Station 1. This facility will remove radium from the city's water supply and condition the water to improve quality.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Follow us



And be sure to visit the
City Administrator's
blog at

www.insidestcharles.com

Continued on page 2

The Year in Review

Continued from page one

Scheduled for 2012 is the East Main Street reconstruction project from Seventh Avenue to Kautz Road. This long-awaited project to be administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation will improve safety and traffic flow in the area. At the same time, the City will move forward with the construction of intersection improvements at West Main and Oak Street near the post office. These projects all bring job opportunities and much needed long-term infrastructure improvements to our community.

Finally, in what I believe confirms that we are all doing the right things in our community, we were named the #1 City for Families by Family Circle® magazine. This designation is a tribute to every resident, business, and organization in St. Charles who contributes to making St. Charles the outstanding community it is today.

I would sincerely like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and a prosperous New Year.

Donald P. DeWitte
Mayor, City of St. Charles

St. Charles Police Department Hosts Citizen Police Academy

Program Held March 6 - April 26

The St. Charles Police Department is once again hosting the annual Citizen Police Academy. The program gives participants a better understanding of how the St. Charles Police Department operates. Some topics covered include:

- Criminal and narcotics investigations
- Arrest and courts procedures
- Traffic stops
- The K-9 unit
- The Tactical Response Team
- Crime scene processing
- Domestic violence
- The Firearms Training Simulator (F.A.T.S.)

The curriculum includes classroom instruction as well as outside demonstrations and hands-on activities when possible, such as fingerprint processing, using a radar gun or shooting on the F.A.T.S. machine.

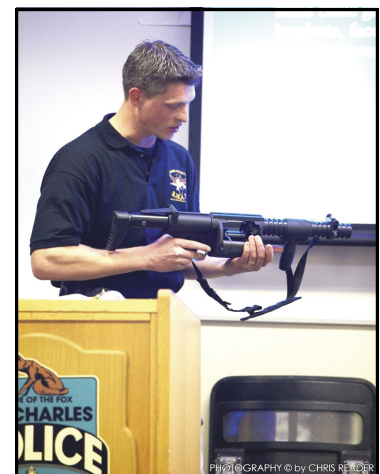
Class meets Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m., from March 6 to April 26. Most classes are held in the St. Charles Police Department training room, 211 N. Riverside Avenue. A graduation is usually held the Tuesday following the last class. Applications can be picked up at the front lobby of the Police Department (630-377-4435) or downloaded from the city website at www.stcharlesil.gov/pd/programs. Drop off or mail applications to:

St. Charles Police Department
c/o Officer Bill Tynan
211 N. Riverside Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

All applications are subject to approval. The class is free of charge and open to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors. For more details, contact Officer Bill Tynan at 630-443-3730 or btynan@stcharlesil.gov.



Officer Nick Anson and Aries give a K-9 demonstration.



Officer Mike McCowan explains a S.W.A.T. demonstration.

Results of 2011 Resident Survey Show Improvement

The City's biennial Priorities Survey has been completed for 2011. The survey has been administered since 1996 and serves as an information source to measure and improve services. This year, approximately 1,900 randomly selected households were asked to complete the survey and over 500 residents responded.

Results of the 2011 Priorities Survey will be posted to the City's website and presented to the City Council in January 2012. In the meantime, here are some of the preliminary findings of the survey:

- Residents value St. Charles as a place to live
 - Communication with residents is viewed positively
 - Opinions of the vitality of downtown have improved
- In fact, 96.4% of respondents rated St. Charles as a "good" or "excellent" place to live. The percentage of respondents who rated St. Charles as an "excellent" place to live increased by 11.4% from the 2009 survey.

Preliminary results of those responding also show:

- 77% rated the city's communication efforts as "good"

or "excellent." A 6% increase from 2009.

- 91% believe it is important to have a welcoming and pleasing downtown.
- 70% believe the downtown has improved, an increase of 1% from 2009.

Additional data from the survey results show:

- 70% believe additional retail businesses are needed in St. Charles.
- 30% rated traffic circulation for trips across the Fox River as "poor" or "very poor." The intersection of IL 31 and IL 64 was cited numerous times as a difficult area to navigate.
- East Main Street was identified as an area of concern with over 40% of respondents rating its appearance "poor" or "very poor."

Thank you to all residents who participated in the survey and for the positive feedback on the services the City provides. Stay tuned for the full results of the 2011 Priorities Survey!

Joint Venture Development Team Proposes New Plans for First Street Re-ignites Construction for Riverfront Project

A joint venture (JV) development team comprised of current development interests First Street Partners, LLC, and national commercial property developer Inland Real Estate Group has approached the City of St. Charles with a proposal to re-ignite construction activity at the City's downtown riverfront First Street Redevelopment District. The City's Planning and Development Committee reviewed the new development plan on Dec. 12, 2011, and recommended that City staff work with the new JV team to bring the revised development plans through the City's formal approval process.



A rendering of the revised development plan for Phase III shows a commercial/residential riverfront building.

The development plan includes the property located at the northeast corner of Illinois and First streets. It sits directly across First Street from the existing, multi-tenant commercial building south of the First Street public plaza. Previously approved development plans included two, five-story buildings surrounding a parking deck, with ground floor commercial, second floor office and 62 residential condominium units on floors three

through five. The JV's revised proposal includes a five-story building encircling a parking deck with commercial space at street level and 125 rental apartments located on floors two through five. Also in the revised plan, the single building and parking deck footprint is set back from the Fox River, nearly doubling the open space between the building and the River, compared to the original site development plan.

The First Street project had stalled due to lack of financing available for residential and condominium projects or office space. Because market demand for these products has been very low, so too has available funds to finance them. Responding to a dramatic increase in demand for rental apartments and a decrease in demand for office space in the region, the JV team's revised plan has attracted interest from the development financing community. If approved, the project could break ground in 2012. City officials believe the growth in downtown population, as well as additional commercial space within the First Street District, will spur economic development downtown and throughout the community.

2012 50/50 Parkway Tree Program

Once again the City is offering trees for planting in parkways through its “50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program.” Through the program, the City of St. Charles shares the cost of planting trees with homeowners. Residents simply choose the tree they want and submit payment. The City does the rest!

Trees will be planted in late April/May. Each tree delivered is balled and burlaped, averaging 2.5” in diameter. Species may vary upon availability. Call for pricing on larger trees if needed.

Residents who order a tree will receive a letter informing them how to care for their new tree. Each tree is covered by a one-year warranty. If the tree dies or looks unhealthy please call 630-377-4405.

Japanese Lilac \$210

Mature height: 20-30 feet - Grows with pronounced vigor, blooms mid-summer producing white flowers.

Autumn Blaze Maple \$125

Height: 50 feet - Green foliage with a red cast in summer, yellow with a red margin in fall.

Linden \$160

Height: 35 feet - Dark green leaves with showy yellow fall color and clusters of yellow flowers.

Purple Prince Crabapple \$120

Mature height: 20 feet - Leaves deep red-purple when young and mature to dark green; favorite of songbirds.

State Street Maple \$150

Mature height: 40 feet - Excellent branching character, clean foliage and good yellow fall color; superior heat/drought tolerance.

Accolade Elm \$135

Mature height: 50-60 feet - Excellent shade tree; large, lustrous, dark green foliage in summer and yellow fall color. Wonderful park or street tree.

Redspire Pear \$150 – Spring Plant Only

Mature height: 35 feet - Pyramidal, dense and symmetrical. Narrow medium green glossy leaves that turn red in the fall. Clusters of white flowers in early spring.

Red Oak \$180 – Spring Plant Only

Mature height: 50 feet - Fast growth rate, up to 2’ per year. Foliage emerges reddish, becomes dark-green in the summer, and turns variable reds in the fall.

Orders may be mailed or delivered using the order form below, along with a check or money order payable to the City of St. Charles. Send to the Utility Billing Office, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. Orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 30, 2012. Please contact Public Works at 630-377-4405 with questions.



50/50 Parkway Tree Program Order Form

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please indicate your choice of tree from the list above:

Free Holiday Light Recycling

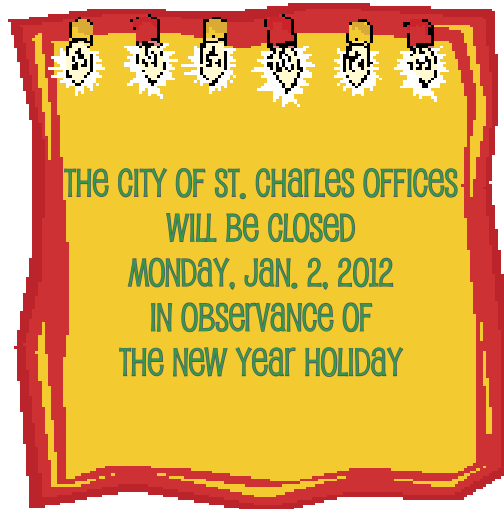
Have a Green Holiday Season by recycling those burnt out strings of lights! Recycle your lights and other electronic equipment free of charge at:

Kane County Monthly Electronics and Book Recycling Collection Event

540 S. Randall Road
St. Charles, IL
630-208-3841
Second Saturday of each month
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



For more information, visit www.countyofkane.org or contact Jennifer Jarland, Kane County Recycling Coordinator at recycle@countyofkane.org, 630-208-3841.



Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated to the City of St. Charles employee Wellness Team Giving Tree program. Because of your generosity, we were able to collect 108 gifts for the Embrace A Family organization (www.embraceafamily.com) which helps single moms, and more than 50 items for local seniors at the Elderday Center (www.elderdaycenter.org).

These organizations were truly grateful for your help this holiday season.



Refuse Pick Up Holiday Schedule

Refuse collection in the City of St. Charles will be delayed one day throughout the week of Jan. 2, 2012, for the New Year holiday. Also, Veolia Environmental Services will be closed Jan. 2, 2012.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Christmas trees will be picked up on both sides of the river the week of Jan. 2 on the day after the regularly scheduled refuse day (due to the holiday schedule), and the week of Jan. 9, 2012, on the regularly scheduled refuse day. After the two-week period, a sticker will be required. Trees are not to be placed in disposal bags. Residents should note that all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed. For more information, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405.



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